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31 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Director of Global Issues

FROM: 25X1
Chief, Geography Division, OGI

SUBJECT: Senior Interagency Group (SIG) Meeting on
Refugee Policy 25X1

1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum summarizes for your information the results of the SIG Meeting held on 30 July at the Old Executive Office Building, which was chaired by Ambassador H. Eugene Douglas, the U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs. 25X1

2. Background and Conclusions: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve refugee admission levels for FY 1986, which must be submitted to the White House, and ultimately to the Congress for approval. The figures proposed (see attached table) reflected a difference of opinion between the State Department, the U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

State Department - Anticipating a congressional chop at this sensitive refugee level issue, State chooses to ask for more than last year, hoping to attain at least 70 thousand, a level they feel will be needed. State justifies its increase on the Latin America-Caribbean level based on an informal understanding it has with the Government of Cuba.

U.S. Coordinator - Ambassador Douglas' group feels that a trimming of the overall level to 68 thousand is more realistic. This reflects their desire to drop the Near East/South Asia level so as to limit Iranian refugees to only persecuted Christians, Jews, and Bahais. East European levels can also be dropped because there is now less of a need to accept Poles.

Immigration and Naturalization Service - INS thinks it's time to be more realistic with level numbers, particularly those on Southeast Asia. Overall they recommend 66 thousand. INS believes that more

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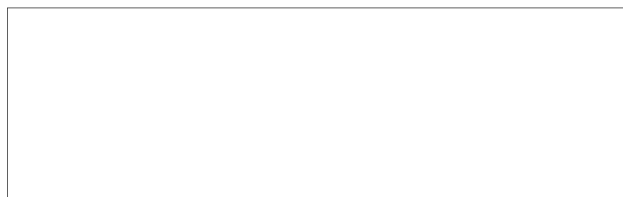
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"internationalization" of the refugee program thru the UN machinery is possible, and that this should allow for a general "ratcheting down" of the US yearly levels. INS reminded all that settlement of refugees in this country is very costly when one includes expenses incurred at the state and local level.

The meeting closed with no resolution of the number differences. Ambassador Douglas will assemble a small group to work out a compromise, and submit a final paper for interagency concurrence in the next two weeks.

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Attachment:
As Stated

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OGI/GD/[REDACTED] (31Jul85)

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OPTIONS FOR FY 86 REFUGEE ADMISSION LEVELS

	FY 85 Consultation	FY 85 Ceiling Modified (1)	FY 86 Budget Request	State Department's FY 86 Recommendation	U.S. Coordinator's FY 86 Recommendation
East Asia/First Asylum	40,000	42,000	36,000	40,000	40,000 (2)
East Asia/ODP	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	8,000
Eastern Europe/USSR	9,000	10,000	9,000	10,000	8,000
Near East and South Asia	5,000	6,000	5,000	7,000	4,000
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,000	1,000	3,000	5,000	5,000
Africa	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL	70,000	70,000	68,000	75,000	68,000

Footnotes (1) In late June and early July 1985, after communication with the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House, the Administration reallocated numbers among several regional ceilings within the worldwide ceiling.

(2) The East Asia First Asylum figure of 40,000 would be administered with 75% (30,000) released October 1. The remaining 25% (10,000) would be released only after the mid-year review and evaluation of the progress of the immigration visa initiative.